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ABSTRACT

This document presents 385 different homicide rates for each of two time periods (1976-1979 and 1980-1984) taken from the Comparative Homicide File (CHF) of the Supplemental Homicide Report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the United States as a whole. The complete CHF includes these 385 rates, aggregated across separate years in these two periods, for each of the states, major cities, and metropolitan areas. The methods used to calculate the rates are discussed. The summary notes that the CHF constitutes a new data file which includes the previously mentioned 385 rates and 385 counts for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, for all cities with a population of 100,000 or more (N=168), and for their respective metropolitan areas (N=125). The document concludes that the data presented can be a valuable resource for research on homicide. Tables and graphs illustrating the data are included. (ABL)

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HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION AND OFFENSE RATES BY AGE, GENDER, RACE, RELATION OF VICTIM TO OFFENDER, WEAPON USED, AND CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THE UNITED STATES, 1976-79 AND 1980-84*[1]

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The purpose of this brief article is to make available a unique set of homicide rates for the United States. These rates are part of a larger source of data on homicide in the United States -- the "Comparative Homicide File" (CHF), which is available to the research community on computer tape.

The CHF contains homicide rates at a level of specificity which has heretofore not been readily available to independent investigators. Thus, while detailed analyses of homicide have been conducted using local (e.g., city) data sets (see Block 1985 for a review), little has been done at the national level (see Riedel and Zahn 1985 for an exception). In this article we present 385 different homicide rates for each of two time periods (1976-79 and 1980-84) for the United States as a whole. The complete CHF includes these 385 rates, aggregated across separate years in these two periods, for each of the states, major cities, and metropolitan areas. The data tape and documentation will be distributed to researchers from the National Institute of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Even the small part of the CHF presented in this article will be useful for understanding the nature of homicide in American society and for interpreting the results of other studies. For example, a recent analysis found that the relationship between stress and homicide was different for intra-family, acquaintance, and stranger homicides (Bachman-Prehn, Linsky, and Straus, 1988). Our interpretation of this finding was based on the assumption that most stranger homicides occur in connection with other crimes rather than as part of an interpersonal conflict. We were able to test this assumption using the data in the section headed "circumstance by relationships" of Table 1 of this article. By converting the counts for variables V189 to V193 in Table 1 to percentages, we found that 73% of the stranger homicides in 1980-84 occurred in connection with some other crime.

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Even though work on creating the CHF was only recently completed, a number of papers have already been published or presented, for example, Bachman-Prehn, Linsky, and Straus (1988), Browne and Williams (1987a,b), Linsky, Bachman-Prhen, and Straus, (1988), Plass and Straus (1987), Straus (1987a,b), Williams (1987a, 1988). These papers only scratch the surface. The complete CHF offers almost unlimited possibilities for important research because the file contains 385 homicide rates, each for two time periods, and each for 50 states, 168 cities, and 125 metropolitan areas, together with an extensive set of socio-cultural characteristics for these units.

METHOD

The Comparative Homicide File

As mentioned earlier, the data to be presented are from the "Comparative Homicide File" (CHF). The CHF makes available for the first time homicide rates that distinguish between victims and offenders, the relationship between victims and offenders, and five other variables: age, gender, race, the circumstances under which the homicide occurred, and the type of weapon used, and all possible two-way combinations of these variables.

Coverage Of the CHF. The complete CHF includes rates for 1976-79 and 1980-84 for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, for all cities with a population of 100,000 or more (N=168), and for their respective metropolitan areas (N=125). The file includes a total of 2,310 homicide rates: 385 rates for 1976-79 and the same data for 1980-84, and each of these 770 rates is available for state, cities, and metropolitan areas. Table 1 identifies the rates and counts which are available.

Since the N for each of the geographic units is different, the CHF is actually three parallel files. There are also procedures to create additional rates when needed for a particular study and a file of 164 measures of the socio-cultural characteristics of the states, cities or metropolitan area, such as median income, median education, percent Black, etc. for each state, city, or metropolitan area.

Source Of Data. The CHF was computed from the Supplemental Homicide Report data tapes provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the years 1976-1984, a total of over 156,624 homicides. Despite the wealth of information on these tapes, they are underutilized by the scientific and administrative community. The reason is that they are extremely difficult to process. For example, the records vary in length, making the tapes unreadable by most statistical programs. Also, each year the file includes data on about 20,000 homicides. Hence computer storage and processing time is excessive. In collaboration with Robert Flewelling, and with funds from a National Institute of Justice grant, we spent more than two years in creating fixed-record size files in SPSS statistical program format; and in adding population data and using this population data to compute the rates for each of the states, major cities, and metropolitan areas of the United States.

Comparison With Other Homicide Data Sources. The CHF rates differ in a number of ways from the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) homicide data published by the FBI, and also from the homicide death rates published as part of the Vital Statistics of the United States by the National Center for Health Statistics. The UCR rates refer to homicide "events" rather than to the characteristics of the victim or the aggressor. The annual FBI publication Crime In the United States does provide counts or percentages for the six victim and offender characteristics used to create the CHF, but not each of the possible combinations of these six variables, not in the form of rates, and only for the United States as a whole, i.e., not for states, cities, or metropolitan areas. The Vital Statistics give homicide victimization by age, gender, and race, but no information on homicide offenders, and only the combination of gender and race, or in some cases age, gender, and race. Most of the data is available only for the nation or for states, not for cities and metropolitan areas. The CHF, by contrast, includes both victim and offender rates and also specifies each rate by the six variables available in the Supplemental Homicide Reports: age, gender, race, relation between victim and offender, weapon used, and the circumstance under which the murder was committed. In addition, rates have been computed for each of the "two-way" combinations of these variables. Moreover, these rates are available for states, major cities, and metropolitan areas. The procedures for aggregating the data and computing rates are given in detail in Williams and Flewelling (1987), and are summarized below.

Procedure For Computing Rates

The calculation of homicide rates from the Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR) is complicated by two problems. First, reporting agencies occasionally fail to submit monthly SHR forms to the UCR office. This non-reporting can range from a partial year of coverage to a total absence of SHR data for a given year (e.g., Chicago in 1984 or Houston in 1982). In any case, the result is that rates calculated from SHR data will be underestimated in areas with non-reporting. Fortunately, the UCR office monitors monthly non-reporting and provides adjusted counts (i.e., "estimated totals") of homicide victims in Crime in the United States. So the extent to which the number of victims in the SHR underestimates the total number of victims in the UCR can be estimated for any given year. A weighting procedure, therefore, was devised for rate calculations which compensates for non-reporting in the SHR (for a full discussion see Williams and Flewelling, 1987).

Second, among the homicide incidents reported, information on offender characteristics and thus the victim/offender relationship is often missing. For example, for the cities of 100,000 population or more, data on the victim/offender relationship are missing for approximately 25 percent of the events, on the average. Such missing data can result in the underestimation of relationship-specific rates and in biased parameter estimates of theoretical models. This problem was addressed by using an adjustment procedure that incorporates such missing data in the rate calculations.

The general strategy of the adjustment procedure was to extrapolate the characteristics (e.g., relationship) of the known cases to those with missing information. Within this general strategy, the adjustments were

determined and applied separately on the basis of the nature of the precipitating event. For example, felony events with missing victim/offender relationship were classified according to the distribution of felony events with known relationship. This refinement of the general strategy, therefore, takes advantage of what is known about precipitating events of incidents with missing information on victim/offender relationship, yielding more accurate estimates of family, acquaintance, and stranger homicide rates (again see Williams and Flewelling, 1987, for a detailed description of the procedure).

Using these weighting and adjustment procedures, relationship by event-specific rates were calculated as follows:

Specific homicide rate = ((I/P) x 100,000)/5,
where I = the total number of weighted and adjusted incidents of murder and non-negligent manslaughter of a specific type (e.g., incidents involving strangers and conflicts), and
P = the total population of the city.

The division by five indicates that the rates were calculated over the 1980-84 period, and then expressed on a per year basis.

THE RATES AND COUNTS

Table 1 presents the average annual homicide rates per 100,000 for the United States, specified by each of the six variables available and by each of the possible "two-way" combinations of these six variables. It also includes the "counts" which were used as the numerators to compute these rates. These counts, and percentages based on the counts, are important for certain purposes, as illustrated by the example in the introduction and in Figure 2.

(Table 1 about here)

The "Variable Names" used by CHF are given so that users of the data can identify the specific variables without ambiguity. The letter V in the variable names indicates that it is victimization data. The letter F in the variable names in the latter part of Table 1 indicates that those variables refer to offender data.

ILLUSTRATIVE DATA ON GENDER DIFFERENCES

The graphs in this section are intended to illustrate the way the 1,540 data points in Table 1 can be plotted to more adequately describe the patterns of homicide in the United States than has been possible up to now. Specifically, we used the 1980-84 rates for V106 to V111 to plot gender-specific victimization and offense rates according to the relationship of victim and offender (Figure 1), and the counts for V106 to V111 to graph the percentage of male and female victims who were killed by a family member, an acquaintance, or a stranger (Figure 2). These are just four of the many two-way combinations of variables in Table 1.

The top half of Figure 1 shows that men are homicide victims at a much higher rate than women, and this gender difference applies regardless of whether the assailant is a member of the same family as the victim, an acquaintance, or a stranger. However, the excess of male victimizations over female is least when the offender is a family member. It is ironic, but consistent with many studies of non-lethal assault victimizations (summarized in Straus and Gelles, 1988), that a woman's chances of being murdered comes close to that of men only within the family. The bottom half of Figure 1 shows even greater differences between women and men in homicide offense rates. Men murder strangers at a rate that is 31 times greater than the rate for women, acquaintances at a 7.7 times higher rate, and family members at a 2.2 times greater rate. The similarity of women to men in respect to intra-family homicidal assaults has also been found in many studies of non-lethal assaults by women within the family (Straus and Gelles, 1988).

(Figures 1 and 2 about here)

Figure 2 gives the percent of all homicides which fall into the three main victim-offender relationship categories The top half gives this data for men and shows that when men are victims, the offenders is most likely to be someone they already know, but not a member of their own family. The bottom half gives the same data for women and shows that when women are murdered, the chances are much greater that it will be at the hands of a member of their own family than is the case for men (41.9% of female homicide victims versus 17.1% of male victims).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This paper makes available and illustrates the use of 385 homicide rates and 385 homicide counts for the United States for each of two time periods: 1976-79 and 1980-84. These data are from a new data resource--the Comparative Homicide File (CHF). The complete CHF includes these 385 rates and 385 counts for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, for all cities with a population of 100,000 or more (N=168), and for their respective metropolitan areas (N=125). The data presented in this article, and the larger data set (which is available on computer tape) can be a valuable resource for research on homicide.

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FOOTNOTE

1. This paper grew out of two programs of the Family Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire, Durham NH 03824: The State and Regional Indicators Archive and research program and the Family Violence Research Program. Bibliographies listing books and papers of these programs are available upon request.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the invaluable work of Robert Flewelling who transformed the Supplemental Homicide Report data tapes into the Comparative Homicide File. We also want to express our appreciation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for providing the apprecation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for providing the Supplemental Homicide Report data files and for help in using those files.

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Table 1a. Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
TOT	TOTAL HOMICIDE RATE	67374	7.43	89250	7.88
V1	VICTIM RATE: AGE 0-14	2740	1.34	3378	1.32
V2	VICTIM RATE: AGE 15-29	27922	11.26	37606	12.13
V3	VICTIM RATE: AGE 30-44	19769	11.44	27730	12.84
V4	VICTIM RATE: AGE 45+	16943	6.05	20536	5.86
V5	VICTIM RATE: MALE	51375	11.67	68223	12.40
V6	VICTIM RATE: FEMALE	15999	3.43	21028	3.61
V7	VICTIM RATE: WHITE	34486	4.58	47562	5.05
V8	VICTIM RATE: BLACK	31584	29.80	40193	30.34
V9	VICTIM RATE: OTHER RACES	1304	2.79	1496	2.56
V10	RELATIONSHIP: FAMILY	17962	1.98	21029	1.86
V11	RELATIONSHIP: ACQUAINTANCE	34895	3.85	45458	4.01
V12	RELATIONSHIP: STRANGER	14517	1.60	22764	2.01
V13	WEAPON: HANDGUN	30907	3.41	39865	3.52
V14	WEAPON: OTHER GUN	11853	1.31	14069	1.24
V15	WEAPON: KNIFE	13039	1.44	18883	1.67
V16	WEAPON: BLUNT OBJECT	7107	.78	10271	.91
V17	WEAPON: OTHER WEAPON	4468	.49	6162	.54
V18	CIRCUMSTANCE: RAPE	734	.08	932	.08
V19	CIRCUMSTANCE: ROBBERY	5408	.60	7520	.66
V20	CIRCUMSTANCE: OTHER FELONY	1371	.15	2421	.21
V21	CIRCUMSTANCE: SUSPCTD FELONY	3822	.42	4242	.37
V22	CIRCUMSTANCE: CONFLICT	33120	3.65	40949	3.62
V23	CIRCUMSTANCE: VICE	1560	.17	2207	.19
V24	CIRCUMSTANCE: OTHER NON-FEL	11519	1.27	13379	1.18
V25	CIRCUMSTANCE: UNDETERMINED	9840	1.09	17601	1.55
V26	STATUS: MURDER AND NON-NEGL	67374	7.43	89250	7.88
V27	STATUS: NEGLIGENCE	975	.11	1336	.12
V28	STATUS: CITIZEN JUSTIFIABLE	1293	.14	2032	.18
V29	STATUS: POLICE JUSTIFIABLE	1354	.15	1810	.16
V30	VICTIM RATE: AGE 0-14,MALE	1540	1.47	1884	1.44
V31	VICTIM RATE: AGE 0-14,FEMALE	1193	1.19	1490	1.19
V32	VICTIM RATE: AGE 15-29,MALE	21363	17.16	29038	18.66
V33	VICTIM RATE: AGE 15-29,FEMALE	6565	5.31	8570	5.55
V34	VICTIM RATE: AGE 30-44,MALE	15696	18.47	22003	20.71
V35	VICTIM RATE: AGE 30-44,FEMALE	4072	4.64	5727	5.22
V36	VICTIM RATE: AGE 45+,MALE	12747	10.13	15246	9.69
V37	VICTIM RATE: AGE 45+,FEMALE	4198	2.72	5291	2.74
V38	VICTIM RATE: AGE 0-14,WHITE	1518	.95	1903	.95
V39	VICTIM RATE: AGE 0-14,BLACK	1162	3.82	1399	3.68
V40	VICTIM RATE: AGE 15-29,WHITE	13545	6.74	18822	7.49
V41	VICTIM RATE: AGE 15-29,BLACK	13804	42.97	18123	45.13
V42	VICTIM RATE: AGE 30-44,WHITE	9649	6.66	14320	7.90
V43	VICTIM RATE: AGE 30-44,BLACK	9704	52.77	12925	56.23
V44	VICTIM RATE: AGE 45+,WHITE	9766	3.95	12435	4.03
V45	VICTIM RATE: AGE 45+,BLACK	6928	27.64	7824	24.97
V46	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,FAMILY	1896	.92	2361	.92
V47	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,ACQUAINT	1198	.58	1444	.56
V48	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,STRANGER	367	.18	388	.15
V49	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,FAMILY	5101	2.06	5763	1.86
V50	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,ACQUAINT	15845	6.39	21071	6.80
V51	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,STRANGER	6062	2.44	9930	3.20
V52	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,FAMILY	5681	3.29	6729	3.12
V53	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,ACQUAINT	10295	5.95	14160	6.56

Table 1½ Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
V54	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,STRANGER	3377	1.95	6450	2.99
V55	VICTIM RATE: 45+,FAMILY	5295	1.89	6228	1.78
V56	VICTIM RATE: 45+,ACQUAINT	7570	2.70	8753	2.50
V57	VICTIM RATE: 45+,STRANGER	4697	1.68	5972	1.71
V58	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,HANDGUN	340	.17	391	.15
V59	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,OTHER GUN	222	.11	176	.07
V60	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,KNIFE	246	.12	302	.12
V61	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,BLUNT OBJ	1173	.57	1658	.65
V62	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,OTHER WEAP	760	.37	850	.33
V63	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,HANDGUN	13704	5.53	18169	5.86
V64	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,OTHER GUN	5142	2.07	6118	1.97
V65	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,KNIFE	5802	2.34	8635	2.79
V66	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,BLUNT OBJ	1713	.69	2551	.82
V67	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,OTHR WEAP	1561	.63	2133	.69
V68	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,HANDGUN	10128	5.86	13586	6.29
V69	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,OTHER GUN	3739	2.16	4878	2.26
V70	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,KNIFE	3684	2.13	5609	2.61
V71	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,BLUNT OBJ	1444	.84	2382	1.10
V72	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,OTHR WEAP	775	.45	1276	.59
V73	VICTIM RATE: 45+,HANDGUN	6817	2.43	7846	2.24
V74	VICTIM RATE: 45+,OTHER GUN	2733	.98	2883	.82
V75	VICTIM RATE: 45+,KNIFE	3331	1.19	4393	1.25
V76	VICTIM RATE: 45+,BLUNT OBJ	2787	.99	3706	1.06
V77	VICTIM RATE: 45+,OTHR WEAP	1275	.46	1707	.49
V78	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,FELONY	178	.09	380	.15
V79	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,ROBBERY	17	.01	22	.01
V80	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,SUSPCTD FELONY	94	.05	88	.03
V81	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,CONFLICT	428	.21	410	.16
V82	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,OTH NONFEL	1717	.84	1950	.76
V83	VICTIM RATE: 0-14,UNDETERM	306	.15	528	.21
V84	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,FELONY	804	.32	1065	.34
V85	VICTIM RATE: 15:29,ROBBERY	1416	.57	2128	.69
V86	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,SUSPCTD FELONY	1838	.74	1922	.62
V87	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,CONFLICT	14168	5.71	18431	5.94
V88	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,OTH NONFEL	5360	2.16	6410	2.07
V89	VICTIM RATE: 15-29,UNDETERM	4347	1.75	7663	2.47
V90	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,FELONY	370	.21	689	.32
V91	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,ROBBERY	1188	.69	1901	.88
V92	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,SUSPCTD FELONY	1004	.58	1321	.61
V93	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,CONFLICT	11137	6.45	14128	6.54
V94	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,OTH NONFEL	3296	1.91	4196	1.94
V95	VICTIM RATE: 30-44,UNDETERM	2777	1.61	5499	2.55
V96	VICTIM RATE: 45+,FELONY	747	.27	1211	.35
V97	VICTIM RATE: 45+,ROBBERY	2787	.99	3463	.99
V98	VICTIM RATE: 45+,SUSPCTD FELONY	886	.32	911	.26
V99	VICTIM RATE: 45+,CONFLICT	7396	2.64	8004	2.29
V100	VICTIM RATE: 45+,OTH NONFEL	2702	.96	3018	.86
V101	VICTIM RATE: 45+,UNDETERM	2410	.86	3911	1.12
V102	VICTIM RATE: MALE,WHITE	25366	6.92	34864	7.61
V103	VICTIM RATE: MALE,BLACK	25069	50.06	32226	51.48
V104	VICTIM RATE: FEMALE,WHITE	9121	2.36	12696	2.63
V105	VICTIM RATE: FEMALE,BLACK	6513	11.65	7968	11.40
V106	VICTIM RATE: MALE,FAMILY	9875	2.24	11270	2.05
V107	VICTIM RATE: MALE,ACQUAINT	27750	6.30	35893	6.52
V108	VICTIM RATE: MALE,STRANGER	11802	2.68	18797	3.42
V109	VICTIM RATE: FEM,FAMILY	8089	1.74	9762	1.68
V110	VICTIM RATE: FEM,ACQUAINT	7144	1.53	9564	1.64
V111	VICTIM RATE: FEM,STRANGER	2713	.58	3964	.68
V112	VICTIM RATE: MALE,HANDGUN	25367	5.76	32948	5.99
V113	VICTIM RATE: MALE,OTHER GUN	9584	2.18	11387	2.07
V114	VICTIM RATE: MALE,KNIFE	10001	2.27	14607	2.65

Table 1c. Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
V115	VICTIM RATE: MALE,BLUNT OBJ	4258	.97	6266	1.14
V116	VICTIM RATE: MALE,OTH WEAP	2164	.49	3016	.55
V117	VICTIM RATE: FEM,HANDGUN	5550	1.19	6937	1.19
V118	VICTIM RATE: FEM,OTHER GUN	2270	.49	2692	.46
V119	VICTIM RATE: FEM,KNIFE	3045	.65	4286	.74
V120	VICTIM RATE: FEM,BLUNT OBJ	2851	.61	4009	.69
V121	VICTIM RATE: FEM,OTH WEAPON	2284	.49	3104	.53
V122	VICTIM RATE: MALE,FELONY	952	.22	1621	.29
V123	VICTIM RATE: MALE,ROBBERY	4575	1.04	6306	1.15
V124	VICTIM RATE: MALE,SUSPCT FEL	2794	.63	3208	.58
V125	VICTIM RATE: MALE,CONFLICT	26484	6.02	32761	5.95
V126	VICTIM RATE: MALE,OTH NONFEL	9245	2.10	11106	2.02
V127	VICTIM RATE: MALE,UNDETERM	7324	1.66	13220	2.40
V128	VICTIM RATE: FEM,FELONY	1152	.25	1730	.30
V129	VICTIM RATE: FEM,ROBBERY	832	.18	1214	.21
V130	VICTIM RATE: FEM,SUSPCT FEL	1028	.22	1034	.18
V131	VICTIM RATE: FEM,CONFLICT	6638	1.42	8190	1.41
V132	VICTIM RATE: FEM,OTH NONFEL	3834	.82	4478	.77
V133	VICTIM RATE: FEM,UNDETERM	2516	.54	4381	.75
V134	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,FAMILY	9840	1.31	12399	1.32
V135	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,ACQUAINT	15828	2.10	21948	2.33
V136	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,STRANGER	9394	1.25	13973	1.48
V137	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,FAMILY	7768	7.33	8341	6.30
V138	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,ACQUAINT	18451	17.41	22737	17.16
V139	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,STRANGER	4742	4.47	8275	6.25
V140	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,HANDGUN	14355	1.91	19342	2.05
V141	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,OTH GUN	6473	.86	8197	.87
V142	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,KNIFE	6257	.83	9434	1.00
V143	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,BLUNT OB	4437	.59	6555	.70
V144	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,OTH WEAP	2963	.39	4033	.43
V145	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,HANDGUN	16106	15.20	20012	15.11
V146	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,OTH GUN	5171	4.88	5685	4.29
V147	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,KNIFE	6471	6.11	9071	6.85
V148	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,BLUNT OB	2478	2.34	3532	2.67
V149	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,OTH WEAP	1357	1.28	1892	1.43
V150	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,FELONY	1465	.19	2314	.25
V151	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,ROBBERY	3530	.47	4802	.51
V152	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,SUSPCT FEL	2578	.34	2613	.28
V153	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,CONFLICT	14381	1.91	19294	2.05
V154	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,OTH NONFEL	7350	.98	8989	.95
V155	VICTIM RATE: WHITE,UNDETERM	5182	.69	9548	1.01
V156	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,FELONY	591	.56	967	.73
V157	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,ROBBERY	1753	1.65	2531	1.91
V158	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,SUSPCT FEL	1140	1.08	1540	1.16
V159	VICTIM RATE: BLACK,CONFLICT	18136	17.11	20989	15.84
V160	VICTIM RATE: BLK,OTH NONFEL	5480	5.17	6370	4.81
V161	VICTIM RATE: BLK,UNDETERM	4484	4.23	7798	5.89
V162	FAMILY, HANDGUN	7679	.85	8741	.77
V163	FAMILY, OTHER GUN	3921	.43	4256	.38
V164	FAMILY, KNIFE	2992	.33	3767	.33
V165	FAMILY, BLUNT OBJ	2218	.24	2855	.25
V166	FAMILY, OTHER WEAPON	1152	.13	1409	.12
V167	ACQUAINTANCE, HANDGUN	16173	1.78	19976	1.76
V168	ACQUAINTANCE, OTHER GUN	6121	.68	7336	.65
V169	ACQUAINTANCE, KNIFE	7448	.82	11120	.98
V170	ACQUAINTANCE, BLUNT OBJ	3623	.40	5098	.45
V171	ACQUAINTANCE, OTHER WEAPON	1529	.17	1928	.17
V172	STRANGER, HANDGUN	7031	.78	11416	1.01
V173	STRANGER, OTHER GUN	2111	.23	2610	.23
V174	STRANGER, KNIFE	2674	.30	4349	.40
V175	STRANGER, BLUNT OBJ	1830	.20	2926	.26

Table 1d Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
V176	STRANGER, OTHER WEAPON	871	.10	1263	.11
V177	FAMILY,FELONY	203	.02	414	.04
V178	FAMILY,ROBBERY	59	.01	112	.01
V179	FAMILY,SUSPCT FEL	653	.07	333	.03
V180	FAMILY,CONFLICT	10361	1.14	11748	1.04
V181	FAMILY,OTHER NON-FELONY	4516	.50	5005	.44
V182	FAMILY,UNDETERMINED	2344	.26	3549	.31
V183	ACQUAINTANCE,FELONY	877	.10	1223	.11
V184	ACQUAINTANCE,ROBBERY	1221	.13	1813	.16
V185	ACQUAINTANCE.SUSPCT FEL	1797	.20	1498	.13
V186	ACQUAINTANCE,CONFLICT	20371	2.25	25574	2.26
V187	ACQUAINTANCE,OTHER NONFEL	6188	.68	7616	.67
V188	ACQUAINTANCE,UNDETERMINED	4713	.52	7980	.70
V189	STRANGER,FELONY	1056	.12	1744	.15
V190	STRANGER,ROBBERY	3977	.44	5405	.48
V191	STRANGER,SUSPCT FEL	1372	.15	2411	.21
V192	STRANGER,CONFLICT	3082	.34	4420	.39
V193	STRANGER,OTHER NON-FELONY	1800	.20	2334	.21
V194	STRANGER,UNDETERMINED	2783	.31	6072	.54
V195	HANDGUN,FELONY	493	.05	824	.07
V196	HANDGUN,ROBBERY	2792	.31	3740	.33
V197	HANDGUN,SUSPCT FEL	1244	.14	1569	.14
V198	HANDGUN,CONFLICT	16470	1.82	19468	1.72
V199	HANDGUN,OTHER NON-FELONY	5678	.63	6655	.59
V200	HANDGUN,UNDETERMINED	4230	.47	7609	.67
V201	OTHER GUN,FELONY	221	.02	297	.03
V202	OTHER GUN,ROBBERY	690	.08	889	.08
V203	OTHER GUN,SUSPCT FEL	760	.08	740	.07
V204	OTHER GUN,CONFLICT	6310	.70	7059	.62
V205	OTHER GUN,OTHER NON-FELONY	2428	.27	2668	.24
V206	OTHER GUN,UNDETERMINED	1443	.16	2417	.21
V207	KNIFE,FELONY	389	.04	613	.05
V208	KNIFE,ROBBERY	845	.09	1307	.12
V209	KNIFE,SUSPCT FEL	730	.08	850	.08
V210	KNIFE,CONFLICT	7305	.81	10322	.91
V211	KNIFE,OTHER NON-FELONY	1922	.21	2440	.22
V212	KNIFE,UNDETERMINED	1847	.20	3351	.30
V213	BLUNT OBJ,FELONY	401	.04	797	.07
V214	BLUNT OBJ,ROBBERY	809	.09	1184	.10
V215	BLUNT OBJ,SUSPCT FEL	482	.05	514	.05
V216	BLUNT OBJ,CONFLICT	2502	.28	3331	.29
V217	BLUNT OBJ,OTHER NONFELONY	1837	.20	2450	.22
V218	BLUNT OBJ,UNDETERMINED	1076	.12	1995	.18
V219	OTHER WEAPON,FELONY	600	.07	823	.07
V220	OTHER WEAPON,ROBBERY	271	.03	400	.04
V221	OTHER WEAPON,SUSPCT FEL	606	.07	570	.05
V222	OTHER WEAPON,CONFLICT	532	.06	769	.07
V223	OTHER WEAPON,OTHER NONFEL	1214	.13	1372	.12
V224	OTHER WEAPON,UNDETERMINED	1244	.14	2229	.20

Table 1a, Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
TOT	TOTAL HOMICIDE RATE, ONE-ON-ONE	67374	7.43	89250	7.88
F1	OFFEND RATE: AGE 0-14	749	.36	699	.27
F2	OFFEND RATE: AGE 15-29	35515	14.32	47349	15.27
F3	OFFEND RATE: AGE 30-44	19680	11.39	27760	12.85
F4	OFFEND RATE: AGE 45+	11431	4.08	13442	3.84
F5	OFFEND RATE: MALE	56928	12.93	76737	13.95
F6	OFFEND RATE: FEMALE	10446	2.24	12513	2.15
F7	OFFEND RATE: WHITE	31733	4.21	43992	4.67
F8	OFFEND RATE: BLACK	34432	32.49	43846	33.10
F9	OFFEND RATE: OTHER RACES	1209	2.59	1412	2.42
F30	OFFEND RATE: AGE 0-14,MALE	621	.59	593	.45
F31	OFFEND RATE: AGE 0-14,FEMALE	113	.11	106	.08
F32	OFFEND RATE: AGE 15-29,MALE	30754	24.70	41351	26.51
F33	OFFEND RATE: AGE 15-29,FEMALE	4777	3.87	5996	3.88
F34	OFFEND RATE: AGE 30-44,MALE	15967	18.79	23247	21.88
F35	OFFEND RATE: AGE 30-44,FEMALE	3711	4.23	4514	4.11
F36	OFFEND RATE: AGE 45+,MALE	9489	7.54	11450	7.28
F37	OFFEND RATE: AGE 45+,FEMALE	1943	1.26	1993	1.03
F38	OFFEND RATE: AGE 0-14,WHITE	394	.25	395	.20
F39	OFFEND RATE: AGE 0-14,BLACK	342	1.12	298	.79
F40	OFFEND RATE: AGE 15-29,WHITE	16474	8.20	22617	9.00
F41	OFFEND RATE: AGE 15-29,BLACK	18319	57.03	23939	59.62
F42	OFFEND RATE: AGE 30-44,WHITE	9406	6.49	14005	7.73
F43	OFFEND RATE: AGE 30-44,BLACK	9927	53.98	13297	57.84
F44	OFFEND RATE: AGE 45+,WHITE	5649	2.29	7221	2.34
F45	OFFEND RATE: AGE 45+,BLACK	5658	22.57	6130	19.57
F46	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,FAMILY	283	.14	200	.08
F47	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,ACQUAINT	397	.19	456	.18
F48	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,STRANGER	135	.07	97	.04
F49	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,FAMILY	7425	2.99	8784	2.83
F50	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,ACQUAINT	19207	7.74	25891	8.35
F51	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,STRANGER	8499	3.43	12278	3.96
F52	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,FAMILY	6169	3.57	8006	3.71
F53	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,ACQUAINT	10319	5.97	14860	6.88
F54	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,STRANGER	3058	1.77	4871	2.26
F55	OFFEND RATE: 45+,FAMILY	4739	1.69	5448	1.56
F56	OFFEND RATE: 45+,ACQUAINT	5966	2.13	6810	1.94
F57	OFFEND RATE: 45+,STRANGER	1175	.42	1550	.44
F58	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,HANDGUN	228	.11	226	.09
F59	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,OTHER GUN	213	.10	140	.05
F60	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,KNIFE	157	.08	164	.06
F61	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,BLUNT OBJ	103	.05	122	.05
F62	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,OTHER WEAP	48	.02	48	.02
F63	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,HANDGUN	15013	6.05	19147	6.18
F64	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,OTHER GUN	5896	2.38	6819	2.20
F65	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,KNIFE	7921	3.19	12053	3.89
F66	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,BLUNT OBJ	4580	1.85	6604	2.13
F67	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,OTHR WEAP	2105	.85	2725	.88
F68	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,HANDGUN	9652	5.59	12974	5.99
F69	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,OTHER GUN	3494	2.02	4544	2.10
F70	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,KNIFE	3654	2.11	5765	2.67
F71	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,BLUNT OBJ	1980	1.15	3058	1.42
F72	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,OTHR WEAP	900	.52	1444	.67
F73	OFFEND RATE: 45+,HANDGUN	6010	2.14	7136	2.04
F74	OFFEND RATE: 45+,OTHER GUN	2506	.89	2928	.84

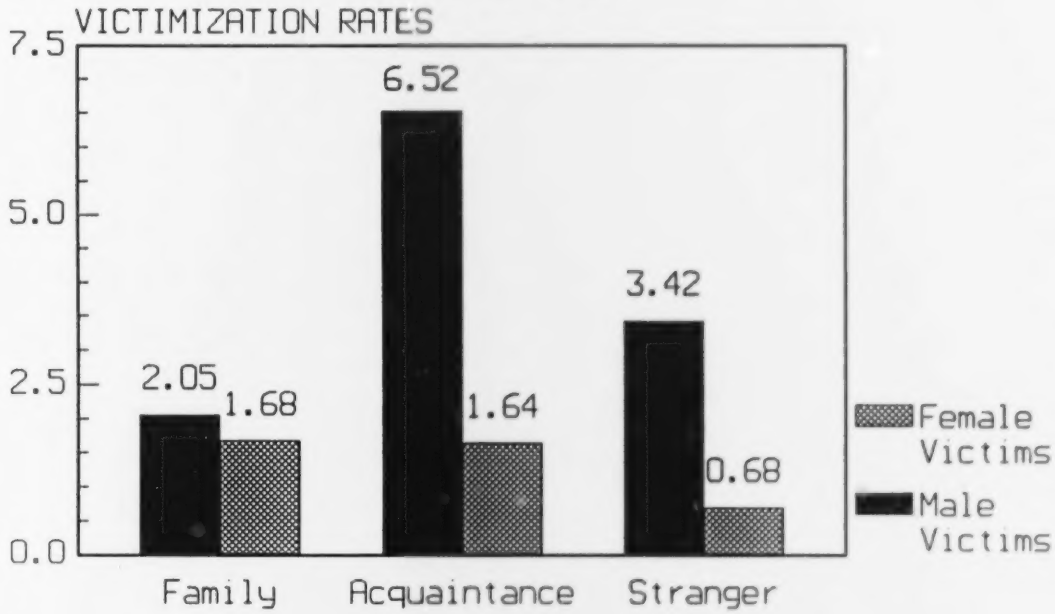
Table 1f. Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
F75	OFFEND RATE: 45+,KNIFE	1701	.61	1917	.55
F76	OFFEND RATE: 45+,BLUNT OBJ	899	.32	1055	.30
F77	OFFEND RATE: 45+,OTHR WEAP	315	.11	407	.12
F78	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,FELONY	40	.02	28	.01
F79	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,ROBBERY	55	.03	41	.02
F80	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,SUSPCTD FELONY	42	.02	20	.01
F81	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,CONFLICT	277	.14	268	.10
F82	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,OTH NONFEL	192	.09	175	.07
F83	OFFEND RATE: 0-14,UNDETERM	145	.07	168	.07
F84	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,FELONY	1565	.63	2337	.75
F85	OFFEND RATE: 15:29,ROBBERY	3969	1.60	5314	1.71
F86	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,SUSPCTD FELONY	2386	.96	2511	.81
F87	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,CONFLICT	15438	6.22	19813	6.39
F88	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,OTH NONFEL	6538	2.64	7743	2.50
F89	OFFEND RATE: 15-29,UNDETERM	5435	2.19	9425	3.04
F90	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,FELONY	521	.30	939	.43
F91	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,ROBBERY	836	.48	1438	.67
F92	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,SUSPCTD FELONY	1043	.60	1358	.63
F93	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,CONFLICT	11149	6.45	14365	6.65
F94	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,OTH NONFEL	3370	1.95	4331	2.01
F95	OFFEND RATE: 30-44,UNDETERM	2884	1.67	5512	2.55
F96	OFFEND RATE: 45+,FELONY	238	.08	286	.08
F97	OFFEND RATE: 45+,ROBBERY	188	.07	317	.09
F98	OFFEND RATE: 45+,SUSPCTD FELONY	351	.13	354	.10
F99	OFFEND RATE: 45+,CONFLICT	7071	2.52	7749	2.21
F100	OFFEND RATE: 45+,OTH NONFEL	2265	.81	2263	.65
F101	OFFEND RATE: 45+,UNDETERM	1376	.49	2496	.71
F102	OFFEND RATE: MALE,WHITE	27954	7.62	39028	8.51
F103	OFFEND RATE: MALE,BLACK	27931	55.78	36486	58.29
F104	OFFEND RATE: FEMALE,WHITE	3805	.98	4987	1.03
F105	OFFEND RATE: FEMALE,BLACK	6475	11.58	7379	10.56
F106	OFFEND RATE: MALE,FAMILY	12379	2.81	15502	2.82
F107	OFFEND RATE: MALE,ACQUAINT	31298	7.11	42195	7.67
F108	OFFEND RATE: MALE,STRANGER	12722	2.89	18531	3.37
F109	OFFEND RATE: FEM,FAMILY	6124	1.31	6823	1.17
F110	OFFEND RATE: FEM,ACQUAINT	4382	.94	5543	.95
F111	OFFEND RATE: FEM,STRANGER	469	.10	656	.11
F112	OFFEND RATE: MALE,HANDGUN	26169	5.94	34293	6.23
F113	OFFEND RATE: MALE,OTHER GUN	10793	2.45	12919	2.35
F114	OFFEND RATE: MALE,KNIFE	10402	2.36	15972	2.90
F115	OFFEND RATE: MALE,BLUNT OBJ	6847	1.56	9818	1.78
F116	OFFEND RATE: MALE,OTH WEAP	2716	.62	3736	.68
F117	OFFEND RATE: FEM,HANDGUN	5001	1.07	5520	.95
F118	OFFEND RATE: FEM,OTHER GUN	1319	.28	1468	.25
F119	OFFEND RATE: FEM,KNIFE	2884	.62	3795	.65
F120	OFFEND RATE: FEM,BLUNT OBJ	636	.14	903	.16
F121	OFFEND RATE: FEM,OTH WEAPON	605	.13	827	.14
F122	OFFEND RATE: MALE,FELONY	2131	.48	3181	.58
F123	OFFEND RATE: MALE,ROBBERY	4948	1.12	6925	1.26
F124	OFFEND RATE: MALE,SUSPCT FEL	3524	.80	4020	.73
F125	OFFEND RATE: MALE,CONFLICT	27237	6.19	34648	6.30
F126	OFFEND RATE: MALE,OTH NONFEL	10093	2.29	12104	2.20
F127	OFFEND RATE: MALE,UNDETERM	8954	2.03	15859	2.88
F128	OFFEND RATE: FEM,FELONY	144	.03	352	.06
F129	OFFEND RATE: FEM,ROBBERY	180	.04	245	.04
F130	OFFEND RATE: FEM,SUSPCT FEL	299	.06	222	.04
F131	OFFEND RATE: FEM,CONFLICT	6670	1.43	7507	1.29
F132	OFFEND RATE: FEM,OTH NONFEL	2308	.50	2446	.42
F133	OFFEND RATE: FEM,UNDETERM	887	.19	1742	.30
F134	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,FAMILY	10124	1.34	13117	1.39
F135	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,ACQUAINT	15401	2.04	22256	2.36

Table 1g. Homicide Rates and Counts For the United States, 1976-79 and 1980-84

Variable Name	Type of Rate	1976-79 Count	1976-79 Rate	1980-84 Count	1980-84 Rate
F136	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,STRANGER	6610	.88	9032	.96
F137	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,FAMILY	8006	7.55	8889	6.71
F138	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,ACQUAINT	19645	18.54	24754	18.69
F139	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,STRANGER	6294	5.94	9797	7.40
F140	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,HANDGUN	13423	1.78	18024	1.91
F141	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,OTH GUN	6614	.88	8233	.87
F142	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,KNIFE	5680	.75	8943	.95
F143	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,BLUNT OB	3993	.53	5928	.63
F144	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,OTH WEAP	2023	.27	2865	.30
F145	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,HANDGUN	17331	16.35	21316	16.09
F146	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,OTH GUN	5310	5.01	5943	4.49
F147	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,KNIFE	7286	6.87	10385	7.84
F148	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,BLUNT OB	3275	3.09	4603	3.47
F149	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,OTH WEAP	1230	1.16	1598	1.21
F150	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,FELONY	1333	.18	1991	.21
F151	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,ROBBERY	2150	.29	2856	.30
F152	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,SUSPCT FEL	2423	.32	2536	.27
F153	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,CONFLICT	14204	1.89	19285	2.05
F154	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,OTH NONFEL	6675	.89	8097	.86
F155	OFFEND RATE: WHITE,UNDETERM	5154	.68	9419	1.00
F156	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,FELONY	885	.84	1477	1.11
F157	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,ROBBERY	2926	2.76	4219	3.18
F158	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,SUSPCT FEL	1349	1.27	1645	1.24
F159	OFFEND RATE: BLACK,CONFLICT	19080	18.00	22158	16.73
F160	OFFEND RATE: BLK,OTH NONFEL	5469	5.16	6225	4.70
F161	OFFEND RATE: BLK,UNDETERM	4535	4.28	7943	6.00

Fig 1. Homicide Rates by Relation of Victim To Offender



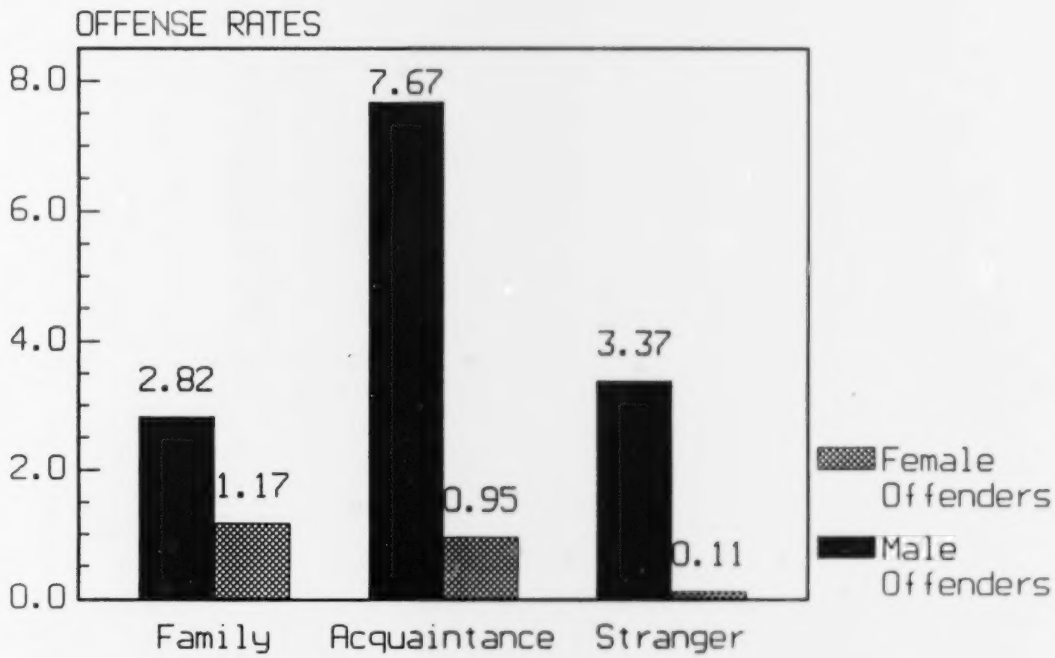
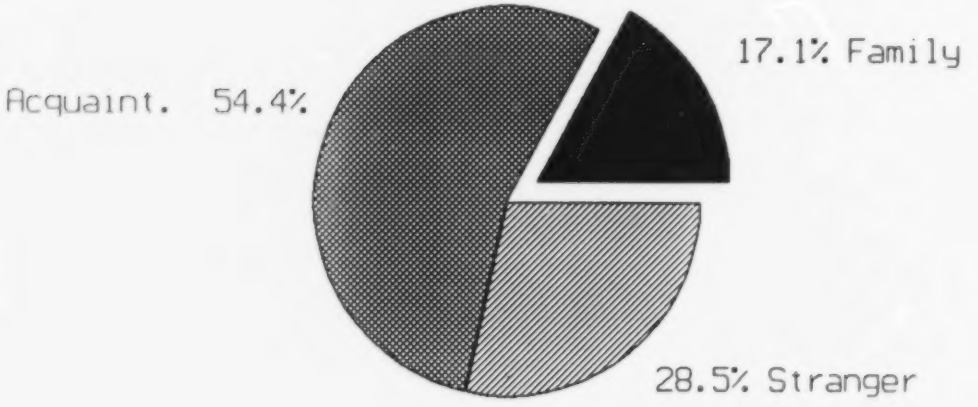
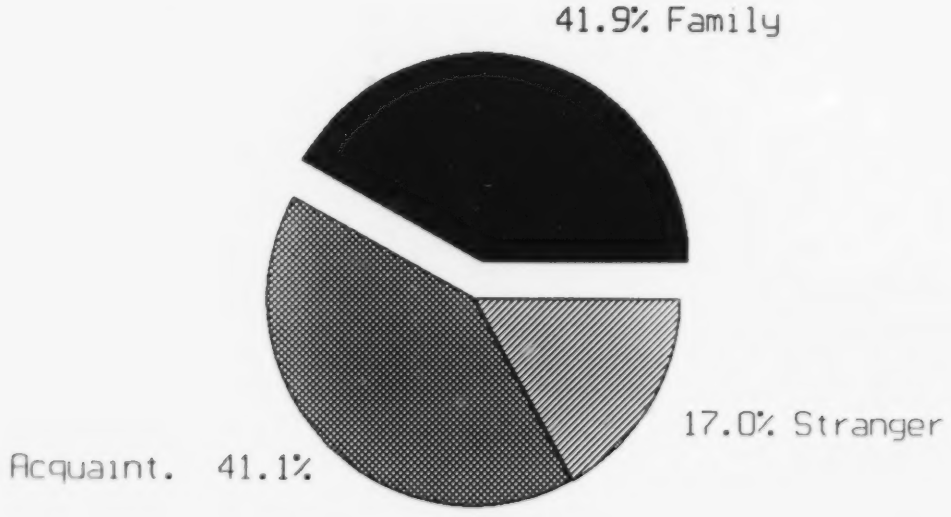


Fig 2. Relation of Victim to Offender
by Gener of Victim
(% of all homicides, 1980-84)



Male Victims



Female Victims